

Chiricahua National Monument
Determination of Public Access, Restriction, or Condition

Affected Area/Topic Common Name: Bonita Canyon Drive

Location of Affected Area: Bonita Canyon Drive, above the campground to the Echo Canyon/Sugarloaf road junction

Nature of Action/Restriction/Closure: Road Construction

Level of Scope of Closure/Restriction: Roadway Closure to include 15 feet beyond the road shoulder on both sides of the roadway

Proposed Regulatory Language (36 CFR section/wording):

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5(a)(1), in order to maintain public health and safety at Chiricahua National Monument in the area of the Bonita Canyon Drive construction zone, the Superintendent has made a determination that Bonita Canyon Drive, including 15 feet beyond the road shoulder on both sides of the roadway, will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic from above the Bonita Canyon Campground to the Sugarloaf/ Echo Canyon junction during road construction beginning January 18, 2016 until completion of road construction.

Justification: In order to address severe erosion of the Bonita Canyon Drive roadway and to incorporate improvements to multiple culverts to protect the roadway in the future, it is necessary to create a construction zone which will restrict vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the Bonita Canyon Drive beyond the Bonita Canyon Campground. After the construction zone is established, the roadway will be taken down and rebuilt in several areas which will require the presence of heavy equipment and machinery. It is necessary to close the construction area to the public in order to maintain public health and safety. The areas up canyon from the construction zone such as Massai Point, Echo Canyon, and Sugarloaf and Natural Bridge trailhead will be closed to vehicular traffic as Bonita Canyon Drive is not a thru road. Due to steep embankments, walking into and out of the roadway in the construction zone is unsafe, and therefore it is necessary to close the roadway to pedestrian traffic as well. As all trail access to the Massai Point and Sugarloaf are still open, the areas above the Sugarloaf/Echo Canyon junction with Bonita Canyon Drive will remain open to pedestrian traffic throughout the closure (See attached map).

Proposed by: Karl Sommerhauser, Acting Chief Ranger

Proposal Implementation Date: January 18, 2016 until construction is complete

Method of Public Notification: Press Release, Internet Posting on Chiricahua website

Reviewed By: Karl Sommerhauser
Karl Sommerhauser, Acting Chief Ranger

Date: 1/8/2016

DETERMINATION: Approved

Not Approved

Superintendent: Allen S. Etheridge
Allen S. Etheridge

Date: 1/12/2016

